REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 9, 2006. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-13 and 15-17 are currently in the application.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was objected to because of a certain informality, which has by this Amendment been corrected. Applicant appreciates the Examiner pointing out this informality. Also, upon review of the Specification, certain minor grammatical changes have been made, which should be self-explanatory.

The U.S. Patent Office has rejected the claims primarily over Vogel, et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,757,597; and also in view of Mckeown, U.S. Patent No. 6,647,820; Hori, U.S. Patent No. 6,328,127; and Takeda, Japanese Patent Publication 2001292085.

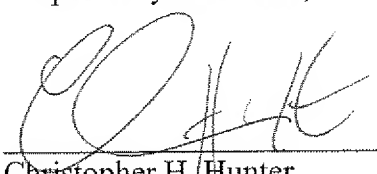
Applicant respectfully takes exception to the rejections of the claims. The Vogel reference appears to relate to a device for targeting, wherein a pair of locking devices is connected to a joy stick. Should a disturbance occur, a locking device will freeze the movement of the stick. Movement will be prevented until the disturbance ceases or the user forces a release of the locking devices.

The Mckeown reference relates to an arrangement for adjusting a maneuvering device, the purpose being to allow the maneuvering device to be adjusted relative to the operator in order to achieve an ergonomic working position. By actuating the adjustment arrangement, the arrangement can be moved between two individual positions. In the first position, the maneuvering device may be adjusted along an axis of the device, and in a second position it may be adjusted to a desired angle relative to this axis.

These references do not reasonably disclose or suggest the novel aspects of the present invention, namely individually-actuated detention devices for restricting movement of the clamps, which thereby limit the movement of the control lever during use. While the Patent Office attempts to use Mckeown as a teaching to show individually actuated detention devices, and combine that teaching with Vogel, Applicant submits that Mckeown is not relevant to the present invention, as it is directed toward a completely different problem in a different technical field. The adjustment and locking of the maneuvering device of Mckeown occurs prior to the use of the device. In addition, the adjustment does not affect the signal from the maneuvering device during use, as the device is merely repositioned relative to the operator. For these reasons, Mckeown cannot be considered to be relevant to the invention and should not be combined with Vogel.

Since Vogel does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of the claims, either alone or in combination with the remaining references, it is believed that the claims should be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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